(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government are contemplating to take the same steps in other parts of the country for the quick disposal of large numebr of pending cases;

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when the steps are likely to be taken; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Chief Judicial Magistrate of Baroda (Gujarat) is holding the court, once in a week, in the Jail premises.

(c) to (e) The Chief Justice of India (CJI), vide his letter dated 19.11.1999, has impressed upon all the Chief Justices of High Courts that every Chief Metropolitan or the Chief Judicial Magistrate of the area, in which a District jail falls may hold his court once or twice in a month, depending upon the workload, in jail to take up the cases of those undertrial prisoners who are involved in petty offences and are keen to confess their guilt. The CJI has further suggested that "Legal Aid Counsel" may be deputed in jails to help such prisoners and move applications on their behalf on the basis of which the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate or the Chief Judicial Magistrate may direct the investigating agency to expedite the filing of the policy report.

In pursuance of the orders passed on 13.10.1999 and 7.12.1999 by the Supreme Court of India, in the case—R.D. Upadhyay *Vs* State of Andhra Pradesh & Others, the Central Government has also written to all the state Government and UT Administrations to take urgent necessary steps for expeditious disposal of cases of undertrials who are languishing in various jails in the country.

Most of the State Governments have also appointed Special Judicial/ Metropolitan Magistrates for the disposal of petty criminal cases, including traffic cases.

Upgradation of Guwahati Airport

* 170. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:—

(a) the implementation status of upgrading Guwahati GNB Airport as International Airport on per PM's special package for the NE and when it is likely to be operative for International Flight;

(b) the details of proposal for extension of apron, runway, taxi parking, aerobridge an central air-conditioning of the GNB Airport indicating total outlay allocation and achievement made commissioning target; and

(c) the improvement of plan and executive status of airport in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Guwahati Airport has been developed as a Model airport and works relating to Arrival Hall and the extension of apron to accommodate six aircraft have been completed. The total outlay for development of infrastructure facilities at Guwahati airport during 9th Plan period is Rs. 65 crores. The list of works which are at hand, are expansion of domestic terminal building, strengthening of runway, and construction of operational boundary wall. The progress achieved in the expansion of terminal building is 84% and is likely to be completed by July, 2000. Mobilisation of plant and machinery materials is in progress for strengthening of runway and construction of boundary wall which are likely to be completed by December, 2000 and August, 2001 respectively. The Central Air-conditioning work of the terminal building is expected to be completed by December, 2000. Provision of aero-bridge will depend upon the traffic potential and usage of larger aircraft 2. Commencment of international flights will depend upon the demand and commercial viability of operation. No airline operator has indicated its plan to start international flights so far.

(c) Regarding other airports in Assam, during the Ninth Five Year Plan, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has undertaken following projects:—

Sl. No.	Airport	Scheme	projected date of completion
1.	Lilabari	a) Construction of new terminal building.	July, 2000
		b) Expansion of runway to 7500 ft. and pavements.	March, 2000
2.	Tezpur	Construction of new Terminal Complex and a new apron.	March, 2000
3.	Silchar	a) Expansion of terminal building. b) Strengthening of apron taxiway and provision of shoulders.	Work completed. Tender action in hand.
4.	Jorhat	Strengthening of apron taxiway and provision of shoulders.	Work being taken up.